



# SWEET DREAMS DO COME TRUE

## Meet Malia Jusczyk – A warrior in and out of the kitchen

By Anne-Marie Pritchett

The Spring 2021 Greatest Baker Competition had thousands of professional and home chefs whipping up beautiful creations with the hopes of winning a grand prize of this feature, \$20,000, and one full year's supply of Stuffed Puffs®. As in any competition, there can only be one winner. Introducing Malia Jusczyk—a 13-year old baker who creates magic every time she steps into the kitchen. She is one tough cookie who will not let her battle with Neuroblastoma cancer stop her from doing what she loves—baking and inspiring kids just like her.

**M**ALIA IS A YOUNG CHILD WITH AN OLD SOUL; one who continues to face the odds head-on like a lion, never giving up, never giving in, and finding joy along the way. While she has cooked with family for much of her life, she immersed herself into baking during the pandemic and went from helping her family make cookies to taking the lead. “Malia likes to make everything fresh and from scratch; she’s really big on ingredients,” said her loving mom, Megan. “She would come home from school, and, because of Covid, they didn’t have sports, so she would bake for six hours! What

kind of kid comes home from school and has that kind of dedication and patience? She was so dedicated to learning the craft and making delicious things. She’s very big on taste.”

Malia lives at the intersection of gratitude, perseverance, fearlessness, and dedication. She knows what she wants (in clothing, baking, etc.) and isn’t afraid to go after it. She has already endured something no human should have to go through yet continues to smile and spread love. She truly wants to make the world a better place. “I love working with all ages, but I most love inspiring kids. That’s my favorite,” Malia said, beaming with light.

During quarantine, she did Zoom calls where she taught others to cook. “She’s just so patient. For example, one time, somebody couldn’t get their cake balls right, so she stayed on the Zoom for an extra forty minutes to try to help them. She also makes sure to say a nice word to everyone on the call, ‘Julia, that looks great,’ or ‘Grandma, that needs two more minutes, and it’ll be fine,’” said Megan. “Malia is a unique child. She’s just a special person. Glen and I are lucky to be her parents.”

Since she was diagnosed, Malia has had some unique opportunities. She was chosen to be the MLS Revolution honorary captain and carried the flag to goalie Matt Turner. She was also in a Boston Bruins ping pong fundraiser where she played (and won a game) with Patrice Bergeron.

This firecracker is headed for the limelight. She has started her own business called Malia’s Sweet Treats, which can be found online at [www.customforacause.com](http://www.customforacause.com). She also has her sights set on being a contestant on a TV cooking show. “I like Disney’s Magic Bake-



Off and the Kids Baking Championship.” Malia’s advice to kids who want to learn to bake is, “Never give up on what you love, not only in cooking, but also in life.”

***“NEVER GIVE UP ON WHAT YOU LOVE, NOT ONLY IN COOKING, BUT ALSO IN LIFE.”***

up about it. Forgive yourself, and it’ll be better. The sooner you forgive yourself for that low moment, the easier it is to move forward.”

Malia’s favorite song is Don’t Give Up On Me by Andy Grammer. “She’ll play it at night when she’s feeling low. She says it’s such a great message to tell people—that you can have a low moment, but don’t beat yourself

Malia makes an impression on everyone she encounters, but there is no one she inspires more than her mom, dad, little brother, grandparents, and auntie.

@malias\_sweet\_treat13

*This feature is paid advertising for The Greatest Baker Competition and was not produced by Bake from Scratch magazine or its editors.*

## MALIA'S QUICKFIRE ROUND

**Favorite holiday:** Christmas

**Favorite food:** Mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce

**Favorite dessert:** Macarons

**Favorite sports:** Soccer, basketball, tennis

**Favorite movie:** Just Go With It

**Hometown:** Plainville, Massachusetts

**Who do you want to cook with?**

Rosanna Pansino

**Perfect day:** I would be baking in paradise for Adam Sandler and his crew

**Favorite superpower:** Healing powers

**Favorite animal:** Giraffe

**Absolute rule for a day:** Everyone has to be kind for an entire day



The Greatest Baker, LLC donated a portion of the proceeds from the Competition to No Kid Hungry, a national campaign that is working to end child hunger in America today by ensuring that all children get the healthy food they need every day to thrive. Since 2010, No Kid Hungry has worked with schools, community organizations, and lawmakers to launch and improve programs that help children in the United States have access to healthy food where they live, where they learn, and where they play. Join in the fight to end childhood hunger at [NoKidHungry.org](http://NoKidHungry.org).